

Aylesbury Urban Sanitary Authority—I.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Aylesbury, April 6th, 1898.

Population last Census	8,916
Estimated to middle of 1897	9,644

During the year there have been registered :—

	M.		F.		Total.	Annual rate per 1000 living.
Births	122	...	132	...	254	or 26·4205
Deaths	83	...	79	...	162	or 16·7980
Excess of Births	39	...	53	...	92	

Thirty-one deaths occurred among persons not belonging to district, which, deducted, makes the corrected rate 131, or 13·5834 per 1,000 living.

There were—16 deaths in Union House,	13 extra parochial
18 „ Royal Bucks Hospital, 12	„
„ in town, non-residents, 6	
34	31

Two of these suicides, 2 drowned accidentally, 1 from fall.

The births are 29 more than last year, and 15·9 above average of preceding ten years ; last year they were 16·3 below average.

The deaths are in excess of the last 4 preceding years, but 2·4 less than average of 10 preceding years. The last 3 years were the lowest on record since 1881, when the number was 116, and considering the increase of population were lower than that year. The birth-rate is more than average, and this no doubt increases the general death-rate, as the infant mortality exceeds that of any other period of life usually, but this year's is 2·7 under average, owing to favourable weather and absence of any general epidemic. I append tables of births and deaths for this and previous ten years. In this table the extra-parochial deaths are deducted, showing the corrected death-rate ; all those that follow are calculated from the gross death-rate as returned by registrar.

	Per 1,000		Per 1,000
1887 Births, 275 or 33·321		Deaths, 140 or 16·987	
1888 „ 252 „ 30·230		„ 149 „ 17·874	
1889 „ 251 „ 29·813		„ 122 „ 14·847	
1890 „ 217 „ 25·523		„ 138 „ 15·231	
1891 „ 253 „ 28·375		„ 151 „ 17·823	
1892 „ 252 „ 27·885		„ 143 „ 15·823	
1893 „ 232 „ 25·2283		„ 129 „ 14·0278	
1894 „ 214 „ 22·9909		„ 121 „ 13·0004	
1895 „ 210 „ 22·2929		„ 120 „ 12·739	
1896 „ 225 „ 23·6005		„ 121 „ 12·694	
1897 „ 254 „ 26·4205		„ 131 „ 13·5834	
Average 238·1 „ 24·689		Average 133·4 „ 13·8322	

As regards sex the births and deaths for this and previous ten years are :—

	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.
M.	122	120	96	114	118	139	124	112	122	126	156
F.	132	105	114	100	114	113	129	105	129	126	118
	254	225	210	214	232	252	253	217	251	252	274

DEATHS.

	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.
M.	83	84	65	79	90	86	85	78	74	98	72
F.	79	65	75	62	70	74	90	83	61	75	79
	162	149	140	141	160	160	175	161	135	173	151

	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Excess of male births	—	15	—	14	4	26
„ „ deaths	4	19	—	17	20	12
Female births in excess.....	10	—	18	—	—	—
„ deaths „	—	—	10	—	—	—

1895 was exceptional in giving excess of births and deaths to females; 1897 is also exceptional in having a higher female birth-rate; average of ten years, gives an excess of male births of 6·4, and of male deaths 8·2 over females; in four years female births and deaths exceeded those of males.

The deaths from zymotic affections, 9, or ·9342 per 1,000 living, are attributed to membranous croup 1, continued fever 1, diarrhoea and dysentery 6 (5 of the latter under 5 years old), rheumatic fever 1.

Notified under Infectious Diseases Act—

Scarlet Fever.....	20	} No fatal case. One case, certified febricular, not notified.
Enteric „	5	
Erysipelas	2	

As will be seen by table below the zymotic death-rate is below any year in the ten preceding, and I find on reference greatly less than any for last seventeen years.

Table of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases for this and previous ten years—

1887	33 or 3·997 per 1,000 living.
1888	22 „ 2·639 „
1889	19 „ 2·256 „
1890	19 „ 2·230 „
1891	16 „ 1·794 „
1892	18 „ 1·9918 „
1893	18 „ 1·9573 „
1894	22 „ 2·3628 „
1895	10 „ 1·0615 „
1896	27 „ 2·8346 „
1897	9 „ ·9342 „
Average of 10 years, 20·4	

Table of Causes of Death from principal Zymotic Diseases for this and previous ten years:—

	1897.	'96.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	'87.	Average of 10 yrs.
Measles	0	14	0	0	1	11	0	0	4	0	0	3
Diphtheria	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	6	27	3·9
Whooping Cough	0	3	0	14	0	0	4	5	1	5	1	3·3
Croup	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	2	1·1
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	6	3	3	2	7	2	2	3	7	3	0	3·2
Rheumatic Fever	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	·8
Erysipelas	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	1·3
Enteric Fever.....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	2	0	1
Puerperal „	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	·5
Scarlet „	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	·7
Pyæmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...
Influenza	0	0	0	3	2	4	7	0	0	0	0	1·6



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Table of Deaths from Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Bronchitis for this and previous ten years :—

1887	22 or 2·665 per 1,000 living
1888	28 „ 3·359 „
1889	19 „ 2·216 „
1890	26 „ 3·058 „
1891	30 „ 3·363 „
1892	31 „ 3·430 „
1893	25 „ 2·7185 „
1894	35 „ 3·7623 „
1895	25 „ 2·759 „
1896	19 „ 1·993 „
1897	28 „ 2·801 „

Average of 10 years, 26·4

This year is slightly in excess of average, 2·2, and 10·9 above 1896, notwithstanding the generally favourable seasons. The deaths occurred principally in the first and second quarters of year.

Deaths at different ages for this and previous ten years :—

	1897.	'96.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	'87.	Average.
Under 1 year	28	34	19	39	26	32	34	29	23	40	31	... 30·7
1 and under 5...	9	15	5	14	16	15	11	14	11	17	25	... 14·3
5 „ 15...	6	6	1	5	12	6	5	7	7	7	14	... 6
15 „ 25...	13	16	8	7	4	10	11	8	4	8	5	... 8·1
25 „ 65...	50	39	50	38	49	39	37	36	38	36	32	... 39·4
65 & upwards...	56	39	57	38	53	58	77	65	52	65	44	... 54·8
	162	149	140	141	160	160	175	159	135	173	151	

Of those born, 254, 23 died within the year, 13 males and 10 females—11·1 per cent. of births. Average of ten years, 21·5, or 11·16 per cent. of births. Higher rate than last year, but below average.

1897	23 or 11·1 per cent. of births
1896	20 „ 8·888 „
1895	14 „ 6·66 „
1894	24 „ 11·30 „
1893	21 „ 9·515 „
1892	25 „ 9·92 „
1891	28 „ 11·067 „
1890	20 „ 10·85 „
1889	12 „ 4·78 „
1888	30 „ 11·9 „
1887	21 „ 7·636 „

The Death-rate under one year is 6 less than last year and 2·7 below average. Eight died in the first week. Premature birth and debility at birth are returned as causing 13 deaths, bronchitis 5, marasmus 3, convulsions 3, diarrhoea 2, hydrocephalus 1, gastritis with perforation 1. *One and under five*: The deaths are 6 less than last year, and 5·3 below the average; attributed to drowning 1, diarrhoea and gastro-enteritis 2, bronchitis 3, convulsions 2, sarcoma of liver 1. *Five to fifteen*: The same as last year and exact average, attributed to drowning 1, tetanus 1, laryngismus 1, tubercular meningitis 1, muscular atrophy 1, febricula 1. *Fifteen to twenty-five*: Three deaths less than last year, but 4·9 in excess of average, due to phthisis 7, syncope 1, bronchitis 1, endocarditis 1, chronic rheumatic arthritis 1, hernia 1, inflammation of bowels 1; the high rate due to the number of cases of phthisis. *Twenty-five to sixty-five*: Eleven deaths in excess of last year, and 10·6 of average; due to phthisis 7, asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia 8, cardiac 10, apoplexy and paralysis 7,

meningitis 1, liver disease 3, kidney 3, diarrhœa 1, hernia 2, intestinal obstruction 3, cancer 1, gastric ulcer 1, embolism after parturition 1, inquests 4 (2 suicides). *Sixty-five and upwards*: 17 deaths in excess of last year, but only 1·2 above average; due to senility 22, bronchitis 7, cardiac 4, apoplexy and paralysis 13, cancer 2, stricture of pylorus 1, hernia 1, liver 1, chronic rheumatism 1, inquests 3, 1 suffocated by getting bread into larynx, 1 from fall, 1 sudden natural causes; these last two periods show an excess over normal rate, but, as mentioned before, no ostensible cause.

The following Table gives deaths for this and previous ten years at the ages of:—

	1897.	'96	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	'87.	Average.
60 to 70	20	12	19	18	17	18	15	24	20	25	10	... 17·8
70 to 80	23	22	31	16	23	26	40	30	18	32	22	... 26
80 & upwards ...	22	9	20	9	13	14	22	11	14	8	12	... 13·2
	65	43	70	43	53	58	77	65	52	65	44	... 57

The first decade shows 8 more than last year, 2·2 above average.

„ second „ 1 „ 3 below „
 „ third „ 13 „ 8·8 above „

One died at 97, one at 90.

The births and deaths for several quarters of the year:—

	DEATHS.			Total per 1,000 living.	BIRTHS.			Total per 1,000 living.
	M.	F.			M.	F.		
1st Quarter	25	21	46	or 19·0792	35	35	70	or 29·0336
2nd „	18	16	34	„ 14·1020	27	33	60	„ 24·8900
3rd „	17	26	43	„ 17·8349	30	31	61	„ 25·3006
4th „	23	16	39	„ 16·1756	30	33	63	„ 26·1308

The births and deaths were highest in first quarter.

UNION WORKHOUSE.

The total number of inmates in the house Jan. 1st, 1897 ...	108
„ „ „ Dec. 31st „ ...	98
Weekly average ...	101
Number admitted ...	147
„ discharged ...	157
Deaths ...	17
Births ...	7

UNION INFIRMARY.

	M.	F.	Total.
No. of Patients, January 1st, 1897 ...	15	13	28
Admitted during year ...	28	18	46
No. of Patients, December 31st ...	10	15	25
Weekly Average ...	...	...	23

Of the deaths 13 are returned as not belonging to Aylesbury. The Master returns 17 deaths, my register 16—probably a death not registered till after 31st. Deaths are attributed to senility 8, phthisis 1, apoplexy and paralysis 2, epithelioma 1, chronic rheumatism and exhaustion from bedsores 1, æt. 24, two infants, æt. 9 months and 7 months from bronchitis and marasmus, one old man, 97, knocked down by a runaway trap (inquest), another died 90 years old, 6 between 78 and 89, 4 from 66 to 76, 1 at 44.

Number of new cases as per return from Medical Officer's Relief Book, 27, viz.:—Rheumatic gout 2, bronchitis 3, cardiac 3, debility 2, senility 3, paralysis 2, scarlet fever 2, measles 1, erysipelas 1, fracture of thigh 1, stricture 1, hernia 1, mental 1, gastric 1, epithelioma 1, chill 2. The infectious cases were promptly removed to Isolation Wards, and no further cases resulted. There were 7 births in the house; all did well; 2 cases were instrumental.

The general health of the inmates has been good; that of the officials also.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF BOOK.

The return of cases on Medical Officer's Relief Book for out-door sick number 33, and comprise 4 cases of catarrh (1 infant), rheumatism 2, bronchitis 8 (2 infants), phthisis 1, gastro-enteric 5 (3 infants), cardiac 1, debility 3, ague 1, whooping cough 1, injury 2, tonsilitis 1, 4 various ailments, showing very little pauper sickness. Eight cases were under 5 years of age. Measles and whooping cough were prevalent at one time, and affected the attendance at some of the schools. No fatality, and many cases not under medical treatment. The families in which the disease of measles occurred were requested to keep the other children from attending school.

THE ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOSPITAL.

The number of patients treated in this institution during the year was 1,764—In-patients, 273; out, 1,491.

There were 27 in-patients in the house January 1st, 1897.

"	26	"	"	December 31st.
"	273	"		admitted during the year.
"	139	"		discharged cured.
"	68	"	"	relieved.
"	9	"	"	unrelieved.
"	18	"		died
"	137			out-patients on books January 1st.
"	242	"		casualties.
"	63			in-patient on books January 1st.
"	373			out-patient dental cases.

Eighteen deaths were due to phthisis 3, bronchitis and pneumonia 5, heart disease 2, injuries 3, spinal caries 2, cancer of liver 1, cancer of kidney 1, laryngismus stridulus 1.

Fourteen were from the district, 4 from Aylesbury. Four inquests. As to zymotic affections 1 case of erysipelas occurred (idiopathic), 2 of scarlet fever in the house. Among the out-patients, 6 cases of diarrhoea, 14 of influenza, 2 whooping cough appear on the list.

The cases treated consisted of:—

373	Dental cases.
305	Casualties—63 of these admitted to house, include 58 fractures and other injuries.
100	Debility.
44	Strumous, include rickets and abscesses.
72	Lung affection—16 phthisis.
12	Tumours, benign and cancerous.
4	Syphilis.
42	Rheumatic, includes several cases of chorea.
84	Chlorosis, other blood diseases.
124	Dyspepsia, several gastric ulcer.
37	Hernia, several operations for radical cure, and strangulated.
47	Ophthalmic.
72	Nervous affection, including hysteria, paralysis, epilepsy.
78	Skin affection.
41	Heart and vessels.
56	Genito Urinary, include nephritis, cystitis, and uterine.
4	Hepatic.
10	Goitre.
18	Throat and ear.
8	Intestinal worms.
12	Ulcers of leg.

I am indebted to the House Surgeon, Mr. Rose, for the above analysis of work done.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Under Infectious Diseases Notification Act, which has been in force since February, 1890, 27 cases have been notified. I append a table of the notifications for this and previous seven years:—

	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.
Typhoid	5	3 ¹	5	2	4 ¹	2	2	5
Puerperal	0	0	4	0	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	3	8	15	10	12	5	3
Scarlet Fever ...	20	9	14	45	165	4	7	23
Small Pox	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	1	1	6	7	0	3	5
	27	18	35	68	191	19	18	37

Diphtheria, cholera, small pox, and puerperal fever we have been entirely free from.

Typhoid Fever.—Five cases. Three of these were in the family of Hounslow, and the first was mentioned in report of 1896 as occurring in the "Plough" Inn. In January of this year two other cases followed; the last as late as June, in a child who had been kept away from home while the others were ill. He was said to have been bathed in the water some of the clothes had been boiled in which the last fever case had worn while convalescing. The other two cases came home ill: one from school (Frome), the other from London. The average of previous 7 years—3·28. The first three cases had a local origin, but the state of things that originated the disease was thoroughly remedied as stated in former report.

Erysipelas.—Only two cases notified, one in Bucks Hospital, the other in town, both idiopathic; no fatality. Average of 7 years, 7·57.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty cases. Two in Hospital, 1 in Union House, 3 cases in one family, 2 cases in other two families, making 12 houses in which disease occurred. It was not possible to trace infection to schools or to direct intercourse with neighbours infected in more than one or two cases. The cases were distributed in widely different parts of the town, families having no connection. The Hospital cases were supposed to have taken infection from visitors. Workhouse, one unaccountable. The premises were all disinfected after completion of desquamation. One case was removed to Infectious Diseases Hospital, being sent home from service into a house crowded with young children who had not had disease, and where clothes were taken in for dyeing and cleaning. This case shows the importance of having an Isolation Hospital. If the Rural Authority had possessed one the girl would have been taken there. The Urban Hospital has many disadvantages, which prevent it from being in general use, and it would be most desirable to have a conjoint establishment for rural and urban districts, so that there would always be some one in charge ready to take in a patient or patients on an emergency.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery.—Two fatal cases in infants under one year old, two under five. There has been no prevalence during the year. Two in old people.

Measles.—No fatality. Some cases have occurred. No general epidemic. The average death-rate of previous ten years, 3.

Whooping Cough has been prevalent during the year, but not universally. No fatality. Average has been 3·3 for ten years.

Rheumatic Fever.—Only one case. One death from acute endocarditis possibly ought to have been included under this head. Average death-rate, 0·8.

Influenza has not been fatal. Towards the close of the year there was some prevalence of it.

Infectious Diseases Hospital has been used once during the year. Many cases have occurred during the year, which it would have been advisable to remove had there been a place ready to receive them; the entire isolation of the present place without any means of communication would prevent any single nurse consenting to remain there alone. When in use we have an old woman who does not object to take charge, and she has had small pox herself and had considerable experience in nursing cases, and does not fear being alone. I have elsewhere made some remarks upon the desirability of a conjoint hospital for urban and rural districts.

Slaughter Houses.—All these have been visited during the year and found generally in fair condition. In one we found several carcasses of sheep emaciated and unfit for food, they were dressed (three sets of tuberculous lungs also); but it was stated that they were not to be offered for sale, but to be boiled down for pigs or ducks. The inspector saw that they were so disposed of, and we cautioned the occupier that he would be prosecuted if such meat was found in his licensed slaughter house again. A carcass of a bullock was dealt with in a similar way. There is no knacker's yard for such things to be sent to, and they are often sent by farmers to their butchers to be killed and skinned and disposed of, without any idea that they shall be treated except as offal for pigs. The establishment of a public

abattoir would be the only way to keep the trade under due supervision. I called the attention of the Council on June 17th to the irregular way in which licensed premises are occupied (they are passed from one to another without registration, and are used by joint occupiers), and urged that steps should be taken to bring the bye-laws regulating the trade to the notice of the butchers, and give notice that they would be enforced. Clause 15, relating to the use of non-absorbent vessels for removing offal, is generally disregarded.

Bakehouses visited and found in fair condition. One shop was very dirty, and not painted and cleaned within prescribed time. Notice was served and the work done. Another, where open rafters existed, place was ceiled and made good. The new Model Bakery is closed, and the late proprietor has resorted to the old premises, which are most unsuitable for the work, and ought not to have been re-occupied without re-construction.

Dairy and Cowsheds.—No provision made for inspection.

Elementary Schools have also been visited. The closets and lavatories are in a satisfactory condition; in all automatic flushing has been adopted. Suggestions have been made as to improving the light in one classroom, and as to dusting, sweeping, scrubbing, and white-washing walls and floors.

Lodging Houses have been visited and were found respectably conducted and generally clean, but the re-numbering of the rooms and revising the air space allotted for each bed and re-issue of cards as recommended in last year's report has not been carried out. I proposed that 300 cubic feet should be the *minimum* for each bed.

Disinfection Chamber.—This has not been provided. It was suggested that use might be made of the condensed steam generated at the baths, to be conveyed to chamber fitted on the Council's premises in Bourbon Street.

Scavenging seems to have been carried out satisfactorily, no complaints having been made.

The Street Ventilators have been very frequently complained of. The erection of ventilating shafts have removed the nuisance where they have been erected, but I still attribute the nuisance to the insufficient flushing of closets (which are not generally supplied with a flushing apparatus, depending on hand flushing, done perhaps once a day), and also of the main sewers. The Chiltern Hills Water Co. charge 10s. for a W.-C. flush and this prohibits such being provided for cottages. I think this is a matter which should be considered by the Council and an endeavour made to induce the Company to supply one closet without charge (except for fittings). The Company also should have the taps always placed over sinks in the cottages instead of over floors without a drain, making the room damp and uncomfortable.

The Surveyor has again kindly furnished me with reports on sewers, drains, water supply, street works, buildings, and a comprehensive account of what has been done in regard to sewage works during the past year, which I append.

Surveyor's Offices, Aylesbury.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1897.

Sewers.—New 12-in. and 9-in. glazed pipe sewers have been constructed in Tring Road beyond Victoria Park, in order to drain houses erected on new building plots, recently set out above the Cemetery,

An old brick sewer was also removed, running from Walton Brewery parallel with the Canal overflow at a right angle to and underneath Walton Street, in the direction of the Metropolitan Railway, and any house drains discovered were diverted and connected with the new main sewer in Walton Street.

Ventilating Shafts.—Three ventilating shafts from main sewers have been erected during the year as follows :—

A 4-in. galvanised iron shaft from lamphole at summit of 9-in. pipe sewer in Albion Street.

One 6-in. by 4-in. ditto at summit of 9-in. pipe sewer running at rear of cottages in Mill Lane (from Stock Lake to Mill Stream Bridge).

One 4-in. ditto in West Street from manhole in Bicester Road.

Intercepting Traps.—Defective Service Drains have again been replaced by sound Stoneware Pipes, with proper intercepting traps and ventilating shafts where required.

Water Supply.—Forty-two houses have been supplied with Chiltern Hills water during the year.

New Streets and Buildings.—Plans for the following New Streets, Buildings, or alterations, were approved, viz :—

New Streets	...	...	2
Dwelling Houses	...	...	36
Various Alterations and Additions	...	...	13
Club Rooms, Warehouses and Stables	...	...	4
Open Sheds ..	...	...	4
Slaughterhouse	...	...	1

Street Works.—As mentioned in the Report of the two previous years, the work of sewerage, metalling, kerbing, paving, channelling and lighting the private road, North of Victoria Park, was again adjourned for six months in order that the owners of land abutting or fronting thereon might have an opportunity of abating the nuisance without the 150th Section of the Public Health Act being enforced. Eventually, a certain amount of metalling was done and also a gravel path with Denner Hill kerb, constructed on the south side of roadway.

A very great street improvement has been made in the diversion of a portion of Mill Lane (from the Canal Bridge to Tring Road) by the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, who have constructed the new length of road in a straight line, of a uniform width and at a higher and drier level, with a good asphalt footpath on each side, which must be specially appreciated by the employees at both the Milk Factory and Printing Works.

Plans, specifications, and Estimates were also prepared for the roadmaking and lighting of St. John's Road, Cambridge Street, and the Surveyor was instructed to carry out the work, which was duly performed.

A great improvement has also been effected in the paving of the footpath on the north side of Bicester Road, with Croft Adamant Paving and 12-in. by 6-in. Mountsorrel granite flat kerbing; and a large amount of paving has also been performed on the north side of New Street.

Plans and estimates were prepared for the widening of the Mill Stream bridge in High Street, so that the footpath on the south side might be continued across, but as the County Council were not disposed to grant a contribution towards the expense, the work was allowed to stand over for a time.

Surveys were made, and Plans and Estimates were also prepared, for the rebuilding of the Canal and Mill Stream bridges in Mill Lane, so that the improvement commenced by the Anglo Swiss Milk Company might be completed if possible.

The Grand Junction Canal Company and Bucks County Council were appealed to for contributions, and it is hoped with their co-operation, to have the much-needed work performed.

Sewage Works.—The Arbitrators appointed to settle the value of the 14 acres of land to be purchased from Mr. B. F. J. Gates, referred to in last year's Report, not being able to agree, Mr. Daniel Watney, President of the Surveyor's Institute and member of the Firm of Messrs. Watney and Watney, Surveyors and Estate Agents of London, was called in as Umpire and held an enquiry at the County Hall, Aylesbury, on Saturday, May 1st, 1897, and his award was received at a special Meeting of the Council held on Monday, May 10th, when it was found the total amount was fixed at £2,775, or about £198 per acre.

The Local Government Board were then communicated with and an Inquiry was held on Tuesday, June 1st, by George W. Willcocks, Esq., M.I.C.E., when the Scheme was strongly opposed by certain owners and occupiers of property in the District, including Mrs. J. Parrott, Mr. C. Piggott and Miss M. E. Gurney, who submitted a petition containing 125 other names, and employed Mr. G. Lepper and Mr. Hammond Chambers, with numerous witnesses, among whom were

Mr. Arthur Vernon, F.S.I., Surveyor and Land Agent of London and High Wycombe, and Mr. J. C. Mellises, M.I.C.E. of London. After taking certain evidence and visiting the works and proposed site, the Inquiry was adjourned until Tuesday, June 8th.

In the meantime, the Surveyor had trial holes sunk and further levels taken for the information of the Inspector.

On Tuesday, June 8th, the inquiry was continued, the works were again visited and the evidence completed.

The case was conducted by Mr. George Fell, Clerk to the Council, and evidence given in favour of the application by Mr. Henry Wyatt, J.P., Chairman of the Council, Dr. Hooper, Medical Officer; Mr. W. W. Fisher, County Analyst; and J. H. Bradford, Surveyor; who also produced plans, sections and estimates, and explained the details of the Scheme, and on August 27th, the sanction of the Local Government Board for the sum of £11,000 for carrying out the Scheme was received, notwithstanding the opposition; the only modification of the plans suggested being the erection of the filter beds on the existing Works instead of on the new field.

Before commencing the work the Council considered it advisable to obtain the opinion of Messrs. Dibdin and Thudichum on the proposed scheme, and on receiving their report decided to construct another experimental filter or bacteria bed with coarse burnt ballast for the treatment of crude sewage, in order to ascertain if chemical treatment and sludge-pressing could be dispensed with, as at Sutton (Surrey).

The Council accordingly visited Sutton Sewage Works; samples of the effluent were taken and favourably reported upon by Mr. W. W. Fisher, F.I.C., etc., County Analyst.

The Surveyor was then instructed to prepare plans for the conversion of one of the existing precipitating tanks into a coarse bacteria bed, as recommended by Messrs. Dibden and Thudichum, and at a subsequent meeting of the Council, the work was ordered to be carried out at a cost not exceeding £163. The work was duly performed and the treatment commenced on Tuesday, December 28th, 1897.

In the event of the bacteria beds working satisfactory, an application will be made to the Local Government Board for permission to substitute coarse bacteria beds for chemical treatment for the purification of the whole of the sewage.

J. H. BRADFORD,
Surveyor.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1897.

	NO.
Complaints received during the year	5
Houses, Premises, etc., inspected	121
Re-inspection of Houses, Premises, etc.	360
Results of Inspection :—	
Orders, Notices, and Letters issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises	40
Houses, Premises, etc., cleansed, repaired, whitewashed, etc.	4
Houses disinfected after illness of an infectious character	17
House Drains :—	
Repaired, cleansed, trapped, etc.	49
Ventilated	39
Privies and waterclosets	
Repaired, etc.	1
Water supply :—	
Services and Taps (new) erected	42
Miscellaneous :—	
Lodging Houses registered under 35th Section of the "Sanitary Act, 1866," or 90th Section of "Public Health Act, 1875."	3
Removal of accumulations of dung, stagnant water, animal and other refuse	5
Animals removed, being improperly kept	1
Regularly inspected—	
Bakehouses	23
Licensed Slaughter-houses	14

I have again to ask for your kind consideration for the delay in presenting my Annual Report. The pressure of work at this season of the year makes it very difficult to find time to devote to any literary work.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
CHARLES HOOPER.

